

TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

2335 PLAZA DEL AMO
TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA 90509

TELEPHONE (310) 533-4200

LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

"The Pride of the North"

2418 West 166th Street
Torrance, CA 90504
(310) 533-4464

BOARD OF EDUCATION
HEIDI A. ASHCRAFT
DR. WILLIAM R. BLISCHKE
JOHN L. EUBANKS
GARY S. KUWAHARA
BETH WILSON

SUPERINTENDENT
OF SCHOOLS
DR. ARNOLD C. PLANK

RECEIVED

May 1, 1997

MAY 1 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 832
Washington DC 90554

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commission Ness:

I am an elementary principal with the Torrance Unified School District, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our school, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the work force of tomorrow.

Teachers in the Torrance Unified School District are extremely interested in accessing the Internet from their classrooms to enhance instruction. Furthermore, we believe that connecting each classroom to the Internet will afford our students the best opportunity to be prepared for the challenges to citizens - the 21st century.

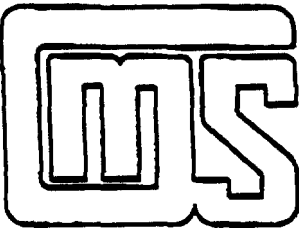
Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Tamara Smith
Principal

TS:bg



Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education
Post Office Box 30036
Charlotte, North Carolina 28230-0036
Telephone (704) 379-7141

Susan Burgess, Chairperson
Arthur Griffin Jr., Vice Chairperson
George R. Dunlap
Lindalyn Kakadellis
John W. Lassiter
Pamela R. Mange
Samuel L. Reid
John A. Tate III
Louise S. Woods

May 1, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System works hard to assure that all 93,000 children in Mecklenburg County receive the finest education possible and to prepare them for their future life and work in the 21st century. Classroom connection to the internet is essential for their preparation for the information age.

I urge you to support the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan. This will enable even the poorest schools the opportunity to connect to the internet and provide distance-learning opportunities allowing equity in American education.

Thank you for your service to our nation, especially to our students, our future and number one priority.

Sincerely,

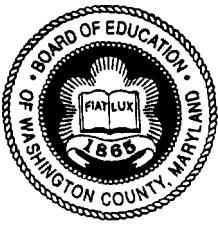
Susan Burgess

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN BURGESS
MAY 1 3 07 PM '97



B. MARIE BYERS
President

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

P. O. BOX 730, COMMONWEALTH AVENUE, HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND 21741-0730 ■ PHONE: 301-766-2815

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

April 29, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Commissioner
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am the school board president from Washington County, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce for tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries. Thank you.

Sincerely,

B. Marie Byers, President
Board of Education of Washington County

cas

MAY 1 4 25 PM '97

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
(Room 4200)

Lebanon School District
Instructional Media Department
1000 South Eighth Street
Lebanon, PA 17042

The Honorable Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844,
Washington, DC 20554

April 21, 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness,

I am a Technology Coordinator from Lebanon School District in Lebanon, Pennsylvania and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our district has a five-year Technology Plan that identifies the need for internal voice, data and video networks for our seven buildings and upgrading for a wide area network for connectivity within and outside our district. Internet and other distance-learning access to all classrooms, libraries, and offices is another identified need. We need the discount plan to help us provide the solutions to these needs.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Pamela Wentling

MAY 1 4 25 PM '97

OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

RECEIVED

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Office of Secretary

To : The Honorable Susan Ness
From: Carole Budilov
Special Education Teacher
Hatboro Horsham High School
899 Horsham Road
Horsham, PA 19044

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

4/25/97

Dear Commissioner Ness,

I am a teacher from Hatboro Horsham School District and would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and Federal Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all the schools, and give services directly to the classrooms. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital to all students and educators. It will help us get the students ready for the next millenium.

As a special education teacher I have already included resources for my classes. We have connected to the Internet and communicated with people in other countries that we have been studying. It is a great hands-on tool for all students to be exposed to while in a classroom setting.

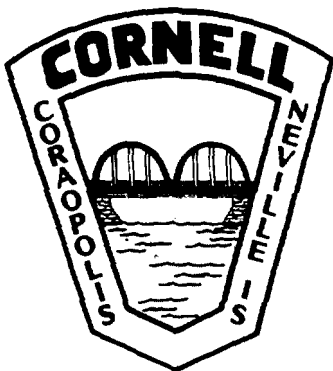
Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your support.
Sincerely,

Carole Budilov

Carole Budilov

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS
MAY 1 4 24 PM '97



CORNELL SCHOOL DISTRICT

1099 MAPLE STREET • CORAOPOLIS, PENNSYLVANIA 15108

ADMINISTRATION

Orlando A. Falcione, Superintendent
Dennis J. Johnson, Principal

OFFICE TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Administrative 412-264-5010
Senior High School 412-264-5012
Junior High School 412-264-5313
Elementary School 412-264-7503
FAX 412-264-1445

April 22, 1997 **RECEIVED**

The Honorable Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW Room 844
Washington DC 20554

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am the Technology Coordinator for the Cornell School District and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and, importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

The Cornell School District is one of the smallest districts in Pennsylvania and is also among this area's poorest. By connecting every classroom to the wealth of information available via the Internet we can begin to level the playing field between the haves and the have-nots. This year we are embarking on an ambitious technology plan that will connect all of the classrooms in our schools to an internal network. By accessing reduced cost connections with the Information Superhighway, we can leverage the power of the computers to effectively enable our students to learn. Through an aggressive evening access program, we can offer the community at large an opportunity to access this information and improve their skills more effectively than through any other means. Cornell School District is taking the first steps towards a better-educated, more employable population. Reduced access to the Information Superhighway is a critical component to the success of our project.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Cordially,

Kenneth J Norris
Technology Coordinator

May 1 4 24 PM '97

OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

**Shippensburg Area School District
317 North Morris Street
Shippensburg, PA 17257
717-530-2700**

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am the Assistant Business Administrator from the Shippensburg Area School District in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania. One of my duties is working with our schools to advance technology for our students. I would like to thank you for your efforts in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

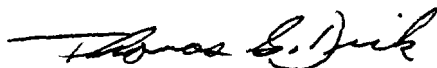
The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will provide even the poorest school districts the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of schools across the country. More importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom to enhance student learning. The inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital to making learning accessible.

We plan to use the discounts available to provide internet connections in our classrooms and libraries. Teaching students how to use the new technology will be vital in preparing our students to enter the ever changing workforce of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your time.

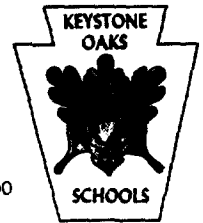
Sincerely,



Thomas G. Dick
317 North Morris Street
Shippensburg, PA 17257

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN F. NESS
MAY 1 4 24 PM '97

KEYSTONE OAKS SCHOOL DISTRICT



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

1000 KELTON AVENUE, PITTSBURGH, PA 15216-2487 • 412/571-6000

April 28, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
General Secretariat

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW Room 844
Washington DC 20554

RE: CC DOCKET NO. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

On May 8, 1997, when you vote on the FCC Federal State Joint Board's recommendation to provide significant discounts for all telecommunication services including connections within each classroom, you will have the opportunity to guarantee that all students have an equal opportunity to benefit from our nation's technological advancements. This will prove to be a major step in the efforts to prepare students for their future in which sixty percent of the jobs will require computer skills.

As a school superintendent, I can assure you that the proposed discounts would provide a major thrust to our effort to integrate technology into the curriculum. We are committed to providing our students with the computer skills that business demands and that our work force will need to maintain our competitiveness in a global economy. The Keystone Oaks School District possesses a significant infrastructure for all students to use technology in the learning process. Our major cost will be line access charges.

I encourage you to support the plan to provide discounts to schools for all telecommunication services including internal connections. This action will open the door of opportunity for every student in our country and help to prepare our work force of the future.

Sincerely,

Chet C. Kent, Ph.D., J.D.
Superintendent

jf

MAY 1 1997

OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION

RECEIVED
KEYSTONE OAKS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

URBANA HIGH SCHOOL
3471 CAMPUS DRIVE
LIAMSVILLE, MARYLAND 21754
301-874-6191
FAX: 301-874-6189

April 24, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Ms. Ness:

We are the Technology Committee from Urbana High School in Frederick County, Maryland. We are writing in support of the Universal Service discounts for schools and libraries that have been recommended by the Joint Board.

We would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The schools in our county have very limited access to the Internet usually through a single phone line. We will never be able to afford more access for all schools unless discounts are provided. School funding is stagnant, while our technology needs are growing.

We are fortunate at our school to have access to a 56kb line. This is a great improvement over one line, however it is slow with the number of users we have. We have over 400 computers in our school which we would like to connect to the Internet. Without the discounts we will never be able to reach our goal. Our teachers and students realize the value of the Internet and are anxious to use it for projects. It opens up many new avenues of information that were not traditionally available to students.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. We urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Urbana High School Technology Committee

Sandra L. Doggett
Deborah A. High
George C. Cheson
Bruce R. ...

MAY 1 4 23 PM '97
RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

TAMAQUA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOX 112 - TAMAQUA, PA 18252
Phone: (717) 668-2570 - FAX: (717) 668-6850

RAYMOND C. KINDER
Superintendent

FREDERICK T. BAUSCH
Assistant Superintendent

MARIE K. GURSKY
Business Manager



April 28, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am Assistant Superintendent for the Tamaqua Area School District and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

As we wrestle with the development of LAN's, WAN's and internet access, we are faced with several challenges. They include the logistics involved when integrating the use of current technology to enhance instruction as well as the financial constraints which are a fact of life for a school district. The implementation of the Telecommunications Act can assist us as we strive to provide the best resources while controlling costs.

Our students would benefit from deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Frederick T. Bausch
Assistant Superintendent

FTB/jmd

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS
MAY 1 4 22 PM '97

FRANKLIN AREA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
FRANKLIN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
PONE LANE
FRANKLIN, PA 16232

21. April, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919M Street N.W. Room 814
Washington, D. C. 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Division of Regulatory Affairs

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

We write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act—through its Universal Service Fund provisions—mandate the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all of our nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communications Commissions (FCC) a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

We urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,

Jean M. Snyder
Vice President
Franklin Area Education Association

MAY 1 4 22 PM '97

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

RECEIVED

OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

MAY 1 4 22 PM '97

400 Central Park West - 5P
New York, NY 10025
April 23, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
Room 844
1919 M Street NW
Washington DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

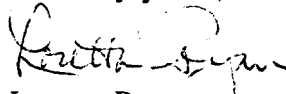
Dear Commissioner Ness:

As a social studies teacher at the Calhoun School in Manhattan, I would like to thank you for your work with the Federal Communications Commission. I am concerned, however, that the Telecommunications Act may not continue to include the proposed education rate, which would provide affordable access to the Internet and the World Wide Web for all schools and libraries.

Today's technology can provide rich resources for students. Unfortunately, it can also serve to widen the gap between the "haves" and the "have nots." It is imperative that we, as educators and policy makers, do not further contribute to this bifurcation. The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The discount will address the needs of all schools, and the inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn.

Our students--those at Calhoun and at schools throughout New York City--need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the FCC to support fully the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely yours,


Loretta Ryan



MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Central Services Building
5225 West Vliet Street
P O Box 2181
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201-2181
Phone: 414-475-8731
Fax: 414-475-8270

April 21, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Dear Commissioner Ness:

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

On behalf of the Milwaukee Public School district, I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

The 'E-rate' initiative is a critical element to the successful implementation of Milwaukee Public Schools' *Technology Strategic Plan*. We are convinced that the future of our community is linked directly to how successfully we build the Information Superhighway into teaching and learning experiences in Milwaukee.

We have a plan that is developing a broad-base of support. This plan will link each of our 6000 classrooms to the world via voice, data and interactive video communication. Training and curriculum reform to take full advantage of these enhanced capabilities are underway.

Milwaukee Public Schools is a large, urban district with high concentrations of poverty. We are also operating under state spending caps which limit our opportunities to pool resources needed to link our classrooms to the Information Superhighway. The E-rate will become an important element in addressing future communication requirements. \$2.25 billion will have a great impact and constitute a great beginning.

We are also interested in assuring that the funding reach urban districts like Milwaukee without having the impact diffused. The rules must be constructed to support the intent of the legislation. Your task is daunting, but you can be confident that Milwaukee is prepared to move forward. We will be successful, because the E-rate will create expanded opportunities for Milwaukee's students and teachers.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

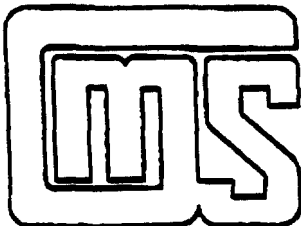
Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Doug Haselkow
Chief Lobbyist

DH/dz

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS
MAY 1 3 30 PM '97



Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education
Post Office Box 30035
Charlotte, North Carolina 28230-0035
Telephone (704) 376-7141

Susan Burgess, Chairperson
Arthur Griffin Jr., Vice Chairperson
George R. Dunlap
Lindalyn Kakadella
John W. Lassiter
Pamela R. Mange
Samuel L. Reid
John A. Tate III
Louise S. Woods

May 1, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Division of Enforcement

MAY 1 3 07 PM '97

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

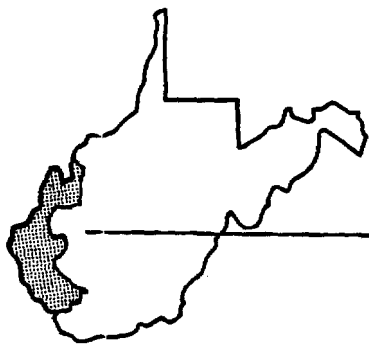
The Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System works hard to assure that all 93,000 children in Mecklenburg County receive the finest education possible and to prepare them for their future life and work in the 21st century. Classroom connection to the internet is essential for their preparation for the information age.

I urge you to support the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan. This will enable even the poorest schools the opportunity to connect to the internet and provide distance-learning opportunities allowing equity in American education.

Thank you for your service to our nation, especially to our students, our future and number one priority.

Sincerely,

Susan Burgess



Regional Education Service Agency, II

2001 McCoy Road, Huntington, WV 25701
Telephone: (304) 529-6205 Fax: (304) 529-6209

Ted L. Triplett, Executive Director

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

April 16, 1997

16-45

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Although West Virginia has less financial resources than most other states, the State Board of Education, the West Virginia Legislature, county boards of education, regional educational service agencies, and schools have made extraordinary efforts to keep our schools abreast of the rest of the nation in educational technology. In order for us to continue to improve opportunities for our children, it is imperative that the Federal Communications Commission approve the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan for universal service for schools.

It is particularly important that schools and school districts receive the proposed deep discounts for internal classroom wiring and connections. Without proper internal wiring, the needed services will not get to the classroom where they will be most effective. It is also important that local control of telecommunication plans be included in the final guidelines since this will provide schools an opportunity to develop plans which will best meet the unique needs of individual schools.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests. Students and teachers of southwestern West Virginia are looking forward to quickly taking advantage of the quality educational experiences which will be made possible by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the FCC regulations which will soon be approved.

Sincerely,

Ted L. Triplett
Executive Director
RESA II

TLT/rmb



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

April 23, 1997

TRANSMITTED BY FAX

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20541

Dear Commissioner Ness:

As a superintendent of schools from a school district in a state which is always struggling to advance technologically, I am most appreciative of your attention to the matter pending before the Commission regarding school districts and education generally. The need to maintain affordable access to the internet technology is a critical educational issue.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision to grant reduced prices for school districts will enable many of us to maintain the network connections and to provide enhanced distance-learning opportunities which would not be otherwise available.

Providing services directly to individual classrooms for use by our students through the proposed discounts of more than \$2 billion annually will be a tremendous assistance. It is also important that internal classroom connections be covered by a discounted rate structure. Most school districts simply do not have the resources to pay prevailing rates for networking costs.

I would also encourage you to minimize the paperwork required of local school districts for participation in this program. The FCC should continue its position of leadership by making it practical, economical, and simple for the education community to access the Information Superhighway.

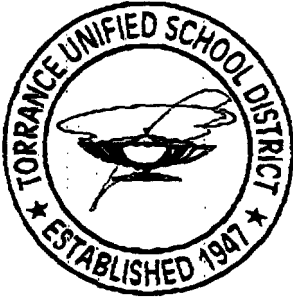
Thank you for your leadership. Our students need the enhanced opportunities this can provide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benny L. Gooden".

Benny L. Gooden, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

BLG/rf



TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

2335 PLAZA DEL AMO
TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA 90509
TELEPHONE (310) 533-4200

BOARD OF EDUCATION
HEIDI A. ASHCRAFT
DR. WILLIAM R. BLISCHKE
JOHN L. EUBANKS
GARY S. KUWAHARA
BETH WILSON

**SUPERINTENDENT
OF SCHOOLS**
DR. ARNOLD C. PLANK

April 30, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC

Re: CC docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

On behalf of the Torrance Unified School District Board of Education and staff, I would like to thank you for your dedicated efforts to ensure that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that all schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and to give students distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our schools desperately need discounts on the equipment necessary for Internet access (internal wiring, routers, and network servers) as well as discounts on installation of data lines and on maintenance costs. The installation of a single high-speed data line for a school can be as much as \$1600. Multiply this by the number of schools in our District and Internet access has been put out of reach for many students. We cannot educate the leaders of tomorrow with yesterday's tools.

We urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,

Arnold C. Plank
Superintendent

ACP:kk

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COMMUNICATIONS
APR 30 6 07 PM '97

RECEIVED

From: <WSpinn@aol.com>
To: A7.A7(sness)
Date: 4/17/97 11:47pm
Subject: E-mail Discounts

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
National Security

96-45

Dear Ms. Ness:

As a principal at Kyrene de la Esperanza Elementary School in the Kyrene School District, Tempe, Az, I am pleased you are supportive of affordable access to the Information Superhighway for schools.

The discount plan proposed by the Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board will guarantee all schools have opportunity to connect to the Internet. Long distance learning opportunities will enable children everywhere to access and experience things and people previously only available to those of some affluence. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all of our schools and bring service directly into the classrooms where it will impact students' learnings. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is essential to success and accessibility. As a result of this plan, the students of today should be more successful when they enter the work place as adults.

I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for schools' and libraries' services. Your decisions today will have long range impact on the futures of our children.

Sincerely,

Sheila K. Spinn

Hampshire County Board of Education

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Gerald A. Mathias

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE/DATA
Allen D. Hott



BOARD OF EDUCATION
Helen A. Heatwole, President
Benjamin Elkins
David Parker
Brenda Pyles
Cynthia Smith

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MAY 1 1997

46 S. High Street, Romney, West Virginia 26757

Telephone: 304-822-3528

Director of Finance: 304-822-3962

April 17, 1997

96-45

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Rcom 844
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Ness:

Although West Virginia has less financial resources than most other states, the State Board of Education, the West Virginia Legislature, the Hampshire County Board of Education, RESA VIII and our schools have made extraordinary efforts to keep our schools abreast of the rest of the nation in educational technology. In order for us to continue to improve opportunities for our children, it is imperative that the Federal Communications Commission approve the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan for universal service for schools.

It is particularly important that schools and school districts receive the proposed deep discounts for internal classroom wiring and connections. Without proper internal wiring, the needed services will not get to the classroom where they will be most effective. It is also important that no state mechanisms for evaluation of telecommunication plans be included in the final guidelines since this will undermine schools' opportunities to develop plans which will best meet the unique needs of individual schools.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests. Students and teachers of eastern West Virginia are looking forward to quickly taking advantage of the quality educational experiences which will be made possible by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the FCC regulations which will soon be approved.

Yours Truly,

Gerald A. Mathias

Gerald A. Mathias
Superintendent

GAM:jmf

**Mississippi State**
UNIVERSITY

Vice President for Business Affairs

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COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

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April 30, 1997

MAY 1 1997

Commissioner Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

96-45

Ex Parte Communications in CC Docket No. 96-262

Dear Commissioner Ness:

Mississippi State University has learned through the Association of College and University Telecommunications Administrators (ACUTA) of the FCC's possible consideration of certain increased monthly charges to generate additional revenue for the Universal Service Fund. Specifically, we understand that there is a proposal on the table to raise the cap on business multi-line Subscriber Line Charges by \$3.50 per line and impose a pre-subscribed line surcharge of approximately \$4.50 per line.

While we fully appreciate the FCC's obligation to implement the Telecommunications Act of 1996, we would urge you to consider more equitable measures to achieve the revenue goals for the Universal Service Fund. The increases described above, if implemented, would impact this institution (an 8500 line Centrex system) by over \$800,000 per year. This would be an increase of more than 50% over our current cost for local telephone service. These increases seem to unfairly target business users, especially Centrex systems like ours, with a disproportionate share of the universal service burden.

Sincerely,

Leah T. Norman
Vice President, Business Affairs

LTN/trl

cc: Senator Trent Lott
Senator Thad Cochran
Congressman Chip Pickering
Brian Moir, Attorney
Jeri Semer, ACUTA
Dr. Donald Zacharias

Sony Music Entertainment Inc.

550 Madison Avenue

New York, New York 10022-3211

(212) 833-8000

April 30, 1997

Commissioner Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW Room 832
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Ness:

We understand that the FCC is considering a proposal to increase the business line Subscriber Line Charge and to impose a new charge, reportedly called a FERRO, of at least \$4.50 per line per month to support extending new telecommunications capabilities to schools, libraries and rural health care facilities. At the same time that it is considering imposing these new costs on American businesses, we are told that the Commission will not take the long overdue step of bringing rates closed to the true economic cost of local access services.

I urge you not to adopt the foregoing proposals which would, in effect, impose a new tax on American businesses, regardless of whether it is characterized as a "rate rebalancing" or "modification of rate structures". With all due respect, we believe that the imposition of such taxes is the business of the people's representatives, not appointed officials. Moreover, nationwide educational and health care initiatives should be considered on a comprehensive basis by all interested authorities, not just as a telecommunications matter by the FCC.

Then time has come for the Commission to reform its rules governing access charges, which are more than \$3 billion a year higher than they should be. All consumers, businesses as well as residential, deserve protection from excessive monopoly prices. The Administration's social policy agenda should be addressed in other ways and not get in the way of these reforms.

Sincerely,


Rose Mary Everett
Director Telecommunications

cc: R. Schwartz

96-45

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MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

CareAmerica

Via Facsimile

April 28, 1997

Commissioner Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW Room 832
Washington, DC 20554

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MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

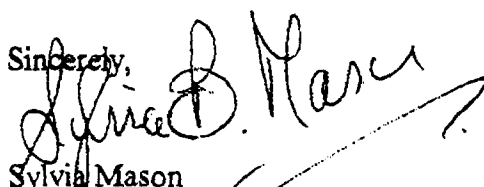
Dear Commissioner Ness:

We at CareAmerica Health Plans are very concerned about your proposal to increase the business line Subscriber Line Charge and to impose a new charge, reportedly called a FERRO, of at least \$4.50 per line per month to support new telecommunications capabilities at schools, libraries and rural health care facilities. As a health plan with more than 263,000 group and Medicare members, we utilize approximately 800 phone lines at our company, 20 % of which are toll-free and provide free and direct access to our members should they need assistance with any aspect of their coverage or medical services. A fee of \$4.50 per line per month would add a charge of more than \$43,000 a year to our company's telephone costs, of which more than \$10,000 would be added to our current costs of providing toll-free service to these customers.

I urge you not to adopt the Subscriber Line Charge increase, which would impose an expensive, additional tax on all businesses and would impact many organizations' abilities to provide toll-free customer service and access. We believe that taxes to support telecommunications for schools, libraries, rural healthcare providers or others should be supported by all sectors, not just businesses who rely heavily on telecommunications.

It is time for the Commission to reform its rules governing access charges. All telecommunications consumers -- businesses as well as residential -- deserve protection from excessive monopoly prices. The Administration's social policy agenda should be addressed in other ways that do not penalize businesses which already are paying excessive rates to meet their telecommunications needs.

Sincerely,



Sylvia Mason
Director, Telecommunications Services
CareAmerica Health Plans

cc: Robert White, President
Bob Steiger, CIO



California Lottery
Headquarters
600 North Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 327-7818

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MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

April 25, 1997

Commissioner Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW Room 832
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I understand that the FCC is considering a proposal to increase the business Subscriber Line Charge and to impose a new charge, reportedly called a FERC, of at least \$4.50 per line per month to support extending new telecommunications capabilities to schools, libraries, and rural health care facilities. At the same time that it is considering imposing these new costs on the California State Lottery (CSL) as well as other American businesses, I am told that the Commission will not take the long overdue step of bringing rates closer to the true economic cost of local access services.

I urge you NOT to adopt the foregoing proposals which would, in effect, impose a new tax of \$40,500 per month (\$486,000 per year) on the CSL, regardless of whether it is characterized as a "rate rebalancing" or "modification of rate structures". With all due respect, I believe that the imposition of such taxes is the business of the people's representatives, not appointed officials. Moreover, nationwide educational and health care initiatives should be considered on a comprehensive basis by all interested authorities, not just as a telecommunications matter by the FCC.

The time has come for the Commission to reform its rules governing access charges, which are more than \$3 billion a year higher than they should be. All consumers, businesses as well as residential, deserve protection from excessive monopoly prices. The Administration's social policy agenda should be addressed in other ways and not get in the way of these reforms.

Sincerely,

William A. Brewer, Director
Information Management & Services Division
California State Lottery

04/27/97

12:48

770 387 7476

CARTERSVILLE BOE → COMM. NESS

001

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
JAMES D. KENNEDY, JR.

APR 28 8 28 AM '97

GREG F. DAVIS, PRESIDENT
LINDA P. BENTON, VICE PRESIDENT
MATTHEW D. HILL, SECRETARY

CARTERSVILLE SCHOOL BOARD

310 OLD MILL ROAD • CARTERSVILLE, GEORGIA 30120 • (770) 382-5880 • FAX (770) 387-7476

JAMES D. KENNEDY, JR.
BETH MATHISON
RICHARD ODOM
STEVE OWEN

FAX TRANSMITTAL

HAROLD T. BARNETT, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENTMIKE BRYANS, Ed.D.
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

To: The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman, fax: 202-418-2801
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner, fax: 202-418-2820
The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner, fax: 202-418-2821
The Honorable James Quello, Commissioner, fax: 202-418-2802

Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

From: Harold T. Barnett 

Re: E-Rate Telecommunications Discount

Date: April 27, 1997

Number of Pages, including this sheet 1**COMMENTS:**

Dear Commissioners/Chairman:

As superintendent of schools for a small urban district of 3,200 students, I want to express my appreciation for your hard work in recognizing that school districts must have affordable access to the InterNet. In my district it has become an expensive but necessary teaching tool.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision is a good one because it provides reasonable opportunity for all school districts to have affordable InterNet connection and distance-learning. The \$ 2.25 billion per year should adequately address the needs of schools and just as importantly will bring services directly to the classroom where learning takes place. Inclusion of the internal classroom connections, at a discounted rate, is imperative.

I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint-Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

April 22, 1997

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COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

APR 28 3 49 PM '97

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Commissioner Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

MAY 1 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

We are faculty and staff from *Wm. B. Wade Elem.* in Maryland. We are writing in support of the Universal Service discounts for schools and libraries that have been recommended by the Joint Board.

We would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Joint Board discount plan will guaranteed that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and, importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discount is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. We urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal services for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Peggy Carriff
Naureen Golding
Stephanie Silverman
Epitha Deeprose
Jennifer Collins
Virginia H. McGraw
John First Jett
Arken Egan

DM
Bridget S. Jackson
Catherine Sobal
Kym Taylor
Yahema N. Napp
William D. Fisher
Rolanda B. Fields
James S. Richard
Lorie Cales